

R E M A R K S

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6, 17, 18, 20, and 22 have been amended. No new matter is being presented and approval and entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-25 are pending in the application.

Substitute copies of all amended claims and paragraphs are set forth as an attachment hereto.

PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

The purpose of this Amendment After Final is to simplify the issues for purposes of appeal. This Amendment corrects typographical errors in claims 18 and 20 and removes the term "collapsible" from the claims.

The Applicant does not concede the assertion of the Examiner that the term "collapsible" is not supported under 35 U.S.C. § 101. On the contrary, the Oxford English Dictionary defines "collapsible" as "capable of collapsing: made to collapse or fold together." It is very clear from figures 1 and 2 that as leash 40 is pulled, the snout loop 11 "collapses." In other words, loop 11 folds together as it passes through cinch ring 22.

The Applicant is allowed to introduce the common and ordinary usage of words to describe the drawings as filed without raising issues under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

The M.P.E.P. § 2164.04 provides the correct rule for patent examination.

In order to make a rejection, the examiner has the initial burden to establish a reasonable basis to question the enablement provided for the claimed invention. In re Wright, 999 F.2d 1557, 1562, 27 USPQ2d 1510, 1513 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (examiner must provide a reasonable explanation as to why the scope of protection provided by a claim is not adequately enabled by the disclosure). A specification disclosure which contains a teaching of the manner and process of making and using an invention in terms which correspond in scope to those used in describing and defining the subject matter sought to be patented must be taken as being in compliance with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, unless there is a reason to doubt **the objective truth** of the statements contained therein which must be relied on for enabling support.

In short, there is simply no reason for the Examiner to doubt the object truth that FIG. 2 illustrates a snout loop 11 that is, in fact, collapsible. Nevertheless, the above amendment is only made to simplify the issues for purposes of appeal. Moreover, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now broadened, not narrowed by the above amendment.

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY OF PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS:

The Applicant has filed three ("3") prior Amendments in this case, respectively dated August 8, 2002, August 20, 2002, and September 13, 2002. However, the final Office Action dated October 9, 2002 only acknowledges entry of the Amendment dated August 20, 2002.

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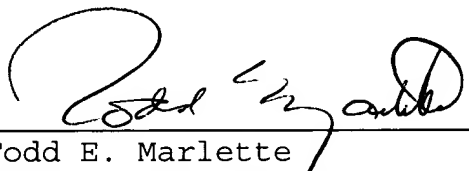
The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the Amendment dated August 8, 2002 and the Second Supplemental Amendment dated September 13, 2002.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT:

Amendments After Final may be made to comply with formal matters set forth in the previous Office Action **or** to present rejected claims in a better form for appeal. 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final.

Respectfully submitted,

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